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MAR 15 2004  
PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q76031

Hidetsugu SHIMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/622,193

Group Art Unit: 2852

Confirmation No.: 2231

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: July 18, 2003

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS AND IMAGE FORMING METHOD

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)**

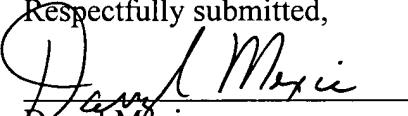
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Darryl Mexic

Registration No. 23,063

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WASHINGTON OFFICE  
23373  
CUSTOMER NUMBER

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith. *Also, enclosed is a European Office Action in a corresponding European Patent Application, citing the references enclosed with this IDS. It should be noted that some of the references cited in the European Patent Office action are not cited herein because they were previously supplied to the USPTO in an earlier filed IDS.*

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/622,193

Attorney Docket No.: Q76031

on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a statement can be made, a statement is submitted herewith.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

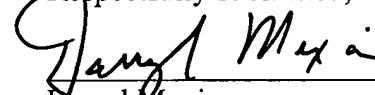
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/622,193

Attorney Docket No.: Q76031

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,



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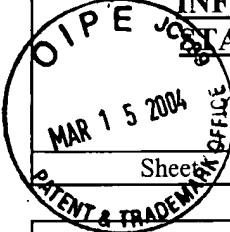
WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 15, 2004

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				Complete if Known	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/622,193
				Confirmation Number	2231
				Filing Date	July 18, 2003
				First Named Inventor	Hidetsugu SHIMURA
				Art Unit	2852
				Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
				Attorney Docket Number	Q76031
Sheet <b>1</b> of <b>1</b>					



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US 5,839,018	A	11/17/1998	ASANUMA ET AL.
		US 6,349,183	B1	2/19/2002	NAGAMINE ET AL.
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup>	Number <sup>4</sup>			
		EP	1 059 570	A2	12/13/2000	SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA
		JP	3131115	B2	11/17/2000	
		JP	8-272202	A	10/18/1996	
		JP	9-6120	A	1/10/1997	
		JP	3261285	B2	12/14/2001	
		JP	9-90816	A	4/4/1997	
		EP	0 736 815	A1	10/9/1996	SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA
		JP	2001-312134	A	11/9/2001	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.			Translation <sup>6</sup>

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov), MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.